

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, JULY 24, 1952

Even



By JACK O. BALDWIN

Hey Baldwin:

See what you can do to drum up a showdown beauty contest between the three finalists of the Lomita queen contest and the three finalists of the Miss Torrance contests.

Incidentally, now that the Miss Torrance contest is over do you still claim there are no beautiful women in Torrance? E.E.K.

Dear Miss/Mrs/Mr—(I don't know which) E.E.K.

On your first paragraph above:

I'll see what can be done. As for your second question, I never said there were "no" beautiful women in Torrance.

What I did say was this: "Torrance, for its size, has FEWER beautiful women per square mile than any other town of comparable size in the U. S." We openly admit that Torrance has a few beautiful women. Darn few!

J.O.B.

What caused the Cinderella-Prince Charming marriage of beautiful 16-year-old Martha Morris to Roland DeVigier to go sour may always remain a secret.

Dudley Gray, prominent Gardner attorney and a brother-in-law of the pretty bride, said this week that no testimony would be given during the divorce action now pending in a Riverside court.

"We'll file sealed depositions with the judge," he said yesterday.

The attractive brunet is back in California for the summer, dodging reporters while trying to live a normal teenage life. Martha made headlines across the nation last November when she met and married a 28-year-old Swiss millionaire in a malt shop on Carson St. At the time DeVigier was vice-president of the Acrow Mfg. Co. in Harbor City.

The decisions an editor makes in a week's time are many. But none is so difficult as "drunk drivers."

"Say," one said to his other afternoon, "I just got clipped on a drunk driving rap. If my name gets in the paper it will kill my mother. She's sick in bed now and if she finds out, I don't know just what will happen to her."

When we hear a plea like this our thought processes run something like this:

I wonder if this guy thought about whom he might kill when he was driving drunk.

Was he thinking about his mother when he was behind that wheel wobbling from one side of the road to the other?

Does he deserve a break? Was he giving the other guy such a chance? The guy into whom he might have plowed his four-wheeled weapon wrecking his car, causing pain, and perhaps racking up another fatal fatality, didn't get that chance.

Drunk drivers, we say to ourselves, have violated a law. The armed bandit who breaks a law and robs or steals is given no such consideration. No one expects us, not even the bandit, to keep his name out of the paper.

Yet this guy who has broken a law by violating Section 502 of the Vehicle Code asks for special favors.

If we run the story that he was picked up for drunk driving and his mother reads the story, it may be said that we killed her!

If we don't run the story do we foster and encourage drunk drivers by taking some of the sting out of the punishment. Then too, it is not up to a newspaper to "punish" any person—isn't that a responsibility of the courts? Or should we run the story and let the chips fall where they may?

We ask ourselves: "If we were picked up for driving drunk would we ask that our names be kept out of the paper?"

Some readers will say: "Ya darn right you would!" "Well, we might ask, but we couldn't expect the editor to withhold the story."

In running a story about a drunk driver it's the innocent who get hurt. The mothers, fathers, wives, and kids. And so it is when a drunk clobbers in to another car. It is the innocent who get hurt—get killed.

If you were you not to run the story about his being arrested and thrown in jail because it might kill his mother, what would you do?

21-Year Old Cat

Be Be May Get Fish Co. Bronze Medal

Be Be, the 21-year-old cat who has been going to the polls every election since 1927, is in line to receive the Puss'n Boots Bronze Award.

The Herald was notified this week of the pending honors in a letter from Dorothy K. Smith, committee on selections. Be Be's nomination for the bronze medal followed a news story and picture published in the Herald on June 1—just before the primary elections.

Affection for Elections

Be Be, the pet of Mr. and Mrs. Addis Thomas, 22401 Ocean Ave., seems to have an uncanny affection for elections. Each election when the voting paraphernalia arrives at the Thomas home, Be Be takes a perch atop the supplies and stays there until shooed off by officials setting up the polling booths.

"News stories of this kind further an interest in the intelligence and loyalty of cats and stimulate an appreciation of their true worth as companions of man," said the letter from secretary of the committee on selections.

"We want to express our appreciation to you for recognizing the interest of such stories."

Fisheries Cooperating Working in connection with Coast Fisheries, our committee has created a bronze award and citation to be presented to owners in behalf of cats whose commendable characteristics and achievements are judged worthy of recognition. The award is made only on our recommendation.

"Be Be has been recommended for the award," the letter states.

Enclosed with the letter was a folder explaining the purpose in making the awards.

Given By Puss 'N Boots Award and Citation were created with the purpose of furthering an interest in the intelligence, loyalty and friendship of cats and stimulating an appreciation of their true worth as companions of man," the folder explained.

The Award and Citation are awarded to cats whose actions, not necessarily acts of heroism, have proved them to be intelligent, useful companions and whose commendable deeds or characteristics are deemed worthy of recognition.

Designed by Artist The booklet stated: "The Bronze Award, designed by a prominent sculptor, can be treasured not only as an honor but as an object of classic beauty. Neither the award nor the citation bears any advertising, and the reverse side of the medal is especially inscribed with the cat's name and the name of its owner."

"The Puss 'N Boots Bronze Award is sponsored by Coa s t

FREE FLOWER SHOW Southern California's most brilliant Flower Show will be presented as a free exhibit attraction to visitors attending the 1952 Orange County Fair, Aug. 13-17, inclusive, at fairgrounds on former Santa Ana Army Air Base between Santa Ana and Newport Beach.



JUST LIKE RABBITS . . . To illustrate its rapid growth and its doubling of plant facilities, Longren Aircraft Co., which tomorrow will celebrate the official opening of its new plant, sent a pair of bunnies to D. L. Miller, of Northrop Aircraft Co., inviting him to take in the ceremonies. Holding the "invitation" is Lea Kesson, Miller's secretary. Civic and industry officials will take part in the housewarming tomorrow.



BE BE, 21-YEAR-OLD CAT . . . winner of bronze award

Plans to Join MWD Bog Down

Proceedings for annexation of the Dominguez area to the Metropolitan Water District have been held up pending the determination of terms by the district.

A detailed study of assessed valuation figures of the area for the past 20 years is necessary to fix annexation terms, but complete schedules of those figures are unavailable. Metropolitan is therefore working on a formula involving the rate of year by year increase in assessed values for the entire Metropolitan District, then applying this rate of increase to the annexation area.

It is believed that acceptable terms will be determined by the Metropolitan Board at its July 29 meeting.

The board of directors has adopted a tax rate of 28 cents per each \$100 of assessed value for the coming 1952-53 tax year. Discussion of tax problems by the board indicates a possibility that the rate for 1953-54 may be set at 26 cents and the year following at 25 cents.

Where's the Fire?

Torrance Fire Department responded to the following calls:

SUNDAY
12:26 p.m., 174th St., and Ardath Rd., grass fire.

MONDAY
4:53 a.m., earthquake, fire trucks move onto street.

3:50 p.m., Sepulveda Blvd. and Cherry St., grass fire.

3:53 p.m., Maple and Carson Sts., grass fire.

4:15 p.m., Maple St. and Sepulveda Blvd., grass fire.

4:28 p.m., Eng. 3 to headquarters station for cover-up.

4:29 p.m., Madrona Ave. and Torrance Blvd., grass fire.

5:25 p.m., 182nd St. and Crenshaw Blvd., grass fire.

TUESDAY
12:38 a.m., Carson and Maple Sts., grass fire.

1:32 p.m., Madrona Ave. near Sepulveda Blvd., shack fire.

WEDNESDAY
12:09 a.m., Newton and Park Sts., church fire.

State Official To Be Honor Guest at Longren Ceremonies

Frank M. Jordan, Secretary of State of California, will be the guest of honor at commemorative ceremonies marking the opening of the new plant here of Longren Aircraft Co. on Friday, July 25 at 4 p.m. Friday evening he will preside at the distribution of bonus checks to Longren employees at a gala celebration. Under the famed Longren "Christmas Four Times a Year" profit-sharing plan, 24 percent of company profits is distributed to Longren employees every three months at gala Christmas parties complete with Christmas trees, Santa Claus, carols and exchanging of gifts.

As a token of acknowledgment to Longren Aircraft Co. and other prominent aircraft manufacturers located in the area of Torrance, the mayor, Mervin M. Schwab, proclaimed July 25 "Aircraft Manufacturing Day" in Torrance. High spot of the day's events will be ceremonies commemorating the opening of the new plant and facilities of the Longren Aircraft Co. for 20 years a member of this industrial community.



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Queen Packing For Air Trip to Las Vegas

Torrance royalty, Miss Shirley Jeanne White, 2317 Sierra Ave., is packing bags for a flying trip to Las Vegas and a two-day stay at the Last Frontier hotel next week.

The 16-year-old blonde, named Miss Torrance in judging at the Civic Auditorium Thursday, will leave Monday by Western Air Lines and return to Torrance Wednesday. All expenses are being paid by the Torrance Area Youth Band, sponsors of the contest.

The curvaceous young queen, appearing with her court of 13 others who contested for the title, will be crowned at the Coronation Ball on Aug. 16 at the Palms Verde Country Club. Crowning ceremony is set for 10 p.m.

The ball will begin at 9 p.m. and continue until 1:30 a.m. Tickets for the affair, the only source of revenue to the Youth Band from the contest, may be purchased from queen contestants now at \$2.50 per person.

Selected as finalists with the queen were Barbara Ann Williams and Shirley Jean Atchley. Others competing in the judging were Barbara Delaigne, Beverly Maye Ragland, Darleen Ann Devine, Phyllis Peterson, Karen Dean, Paula Francis, Patricia Jean Marshall, Frances Palumbo, Maureen Mathews, Dolores Foster, and Sallye Pat. Penton.

Quake Recalls to Mind Infamous 1941 Quake

Monday morning's earthquake recalled to mind the infamous "Torrance earthquake" of 1941.

On November 14, three weeks before Pearl Harbor, at 12:42 in the morning Torrance was rocked by a severe earthquake that did an estimated \$500,000 to \$400,000 damage to local stores and homes.

Walls gave way, glass shattered, and chimneys tumbled as the town's inhabitants rushed into the open.

Although the streets were littered with debris and several cars were buried beneath piles of brick, not a single injury was reported.

Torrance received damage amounting to \$12,500 in the tragic Long Beach earthquake of March 30, 1933. Most of the damage was confined to broken windows and loosened ornaments.

For 70 hours following the 1941 earthquake the City of Torrance was blockaded as thousands of curious flocked to the city and hampered digging operations. Adding further confusion to the night was a dense fog that blanketed the area. There were no lights and emergency vehicles groped through the murky night at a snail's pace.

Hub Caps Removed

Hub caps were taken from his 1951 Buick while it was parked at Carson and Abalone Sts. Saturday evening, Harlan F. Gillespie told police. He valued them at \$30.

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Steel Spokesman Offers 8-Point Proposed Pact

John Stephens, spokesman for the steel industry, presented the following eight-point proposed agreement as his opening remarks before a recent meeting of the Wage Policy Committee of the union, according to a release just received from the steel companies.

Bethlehem Steel Company, Inland Steel Company, Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation, U. S. Steel Corporation, and the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company have agreed with United Steelworkers of America, CIO, on the following items in respect of the hourly-paid production and maintenance employees of such companies in the units represented by the union at the steel producing plants of such companies, which agreement as to each company is contingent upon agreement being reached by such company and the union as to all other contract provisions and as to the detailed application of the following items:

1. Increase the job class I rate by 12 1/2 cents and increase the spread between job classes by 1/2 cent.
2. Six paid holidays, double time for holidays worked, with appropriate provisions as to eligibility.
3. Increase shift differentials to 6 cents per hour for afternoon shift and 9 cents per hour for night shift.
4. Three weeks vacation after 15 years of service, effective January 1, 1952.
5. Decrease southern differential of U. S. Steel and Republic by 5 cents an hour.
6. Above adjustments to be effective upon execution of complete agreement and return to work except that for present employees general increase in wage rates specified in item 1 above will be retroactive to March 16, 1952.
7. New agreements to run to June 30, 1954, renewable by either party as of June 30, 1953, on the subject of general adjustment of wage rates only.
8. Add to union security provisions of present agreements a provision substantially in the form attached hereto.

(Provision to be added to existing union security provisions). Each new employee shall sign and furnish to the company at the time of his employment an application card, in duplicate, for membership in the union, in a form agreed to in writing by the company and the union. A copy of such card shall be furnished to the employee. Such application card shall provide that it shall not become effective until the expiration of 30 days after the date of his employment and that it shall not thereafter become effective if such employee shall mail to the company a written notice of his election not to become a member of the union, which notice shall be postmarked not less than 15 days and not more than 30 days after the date of his employment. The company shall promptly furnish the union a copy of each such notice received by it. If such application shall become effective at the expiration of such 30 days, one signed copy of it shall then be turned over to the union. The union shall be given reasonable opportunity to inspect all such notices which shall be received by the company.



PROMOTIONS . . . New Battalion Chief Neil Whitney, left, receives a congratulatory handshake from Torrance Fire Chief J. J. Benner upon Whitney's promotion from fire captain to the newly-created position. Other new "BC" is Gene Walker, who will command the B platoon from the headquarters station. Whitney will be in charge of the A shift.

New Battalion Chiefs

Jr. Red Cross Pair Return From Camp Seely

To realize leadership qualities and develop them into better citizens of their homes, communities and country. Frances Frame, 16421 Chanera Ave., and Jim Engler, 1816 Schilling Dr., attended the Junior Red Cross Leadership Training Center at Camp Seely, Crestline, July 13-18.

About 120 delegates, students of senior high schools, attended the camp. Besides courses in Civil Defense, water safety, first aid and home nursing, camp days were filled with sports, games and songs.

Outstanding events were square dancing to the music of the Rex Parker Trio, campfire singing, dancing with Louise Valterza and orchestra, and a banquet "with shining candles which expressed the warmth and friendliness of all at Camp Seely," Miss Frame said.

All Ex-engineers The three were fire engineers: Moffitt and Christian will be assigned to the Walteria station while Lucas will work out of the downtown station.

Chief Walker was promoted to

Veteran Firemen Get Chiefs Jobs

Appointment of two veteran Torrance Fire Department members as battalion chiefs and naming of three new fire captains was revealed Tuesday by Fire Chief J. J. Benner.

Named to the newly-created job of battalion chief were Eugene P. Walker and Neil T. Whitney, who both entered the fire service here in 1938 as call firemen.

Robert R. Lucas, Robert Moffitt and Leonard Christian were chosen from civil service lists and promoted to fire captain effective this morning, according to the fire chief.

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Trio Injured In Truck-Car Crash

Three persons were injured in a traffic collision involving an auto and a paint truck at Vermont Ave. and Carson St. yesterday morning.

Taken to Harbor General Hospital were Ealas Loftis, of San Pedro, Albert Muggleston, 66 and Robert Porter, 22. Mrs. Loftis was suffering from severe scalp lacerations. The other two were released to private doctors, according to Harbor Hospital.

Whitney received his engineer's appointment on January 28, 1941, and was named as captain on the same date as Walker. He will be in charge of A platoon, both men working out of the headquarters station.

Coordinated Activities The job of the battalion chiefs, according to Chief Benner, will be to coordinate the activities of the three Torrance fire stations and to take command of all fires to which the chief does not respond.

Training and fire prevention activities also will be assigned to the battalion chiefs.

The men are the first battalion chiefs ever to be named to the local fire-fighting force. Growth of the city and the expansion of the department to keep up with that rapid growth has necessitated the appointment of these new chiefs to assume duties which the department has been forced to neglect, Chief Benner said.

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